

Training



High-Paying Jobs

Requiring Relatively Little Education

by J. Goodman Farr, M.Ed.

How would it be to work at a job you love, get paid a salary you love, and not spend a decade in college or be in debt up to \$100,000 with student loans?

You could support yourself now and save money for the future without relying on anyone else.

In every career field, you can choose low-paying or high-paying jobs; it's your choice. Most of the time, employers reward workers for enduring years of schooling beyond high school by paying higher wages. Professionals—doctors, judges, and college presidents to mention only a few—have to endure almost ten years of education beyond high school to earn \$100-200,000 per year. Low-paying jobs generally require fewer years of training than high-paying jobs.

If you are wise, you can pick careers with high wages and relatively low educational requirements. If you spend two years in college and make \$80,000 per year, that's a better return on your educational investment than making the same amount after spending eight years in college. Remember that these wages are Utah averages; the same jobs will command a higher salary in other states.

Career	UT Hourly Range	Approx. Education in Yrs.*
Dental Hygienist	\$24-38	Associate (2-year) Degree
Paralegal	\$17-21	Associate, OJT**
Registered Nurse	\$19-25	Associate, Bachelor's
Computer Software Eng./Applic.	\$26-43	<i>Varies</i> Associate/OJT, Bachelor's
Computer Systems Analyst	\$18-31	<i>Varies</i> Associate/OJT, Bachelor's
Computer Programmer	\$23-34	<i>Varies</i> Associate, Bachelor's
Computer Netw. System/Data Analy.	\$19-30	<i>Varies</i> Associate/OJT, Bachelor's
Mechanical Engineer	\$21-33	Bachelor's (4- or 5-year) Degree
Civil Engineer	\$21-32	Bachelor's
Computer Hardware Engineer	\$28-39	Bachelor's
Medical & Clinical Lab. Technologist	\$17-25	Bachelor's
Secondary Teacher	\$23-36	Bachelor's
Natural Science Manager	\$23-44	Bachelor's
Technical Writer	\$18-27	Bachelor's & spec. knowledge
Marketing Manager	\$26-42	Bachelor's
Financial Manager	\$21-36	Bachelor's

*Approximate Education in Years: *Varies* = Some employers want employees to have bachelor's degrees; other employers will hire workers with extensive experience and associate degrees)

**OJT = On-the-job training (approximately 6 months to a year of work experience)

Wage Data: Department of Workforce Services, Spring, 2002